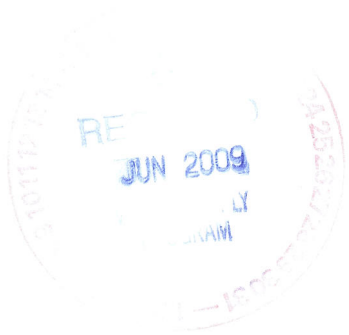

West White Plains Water Company, Inc.

PWSID – 00080051

Consumer Confidence Report - 2008

June 2009

During 2008, the West White Plains Water Company (PWSID 00080051) collected 12 monthly samples for bacterial analysis. These samples were transported to the Environmental Testing Laboratory in Waldorf where they were analyzed; no samples were positive. We also had the water tested for nitrate, arsenic, fluoride, lead-copper and metals (Phase II/V). Results of the analyses can be seen in the table below. The system has waivers for cyanide, nitrite, asbestos, combined uranium and radium-226, so these do not require analysis. This Consumer Confidence Report is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided last year. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. This is the 11th year that we have provided this report in keeping with EPA requirements, and we will continue to do so each year in June. For more information about your water or water system, call Don Shisler (301 932-0251) or George Abbe (301 934-9755).

Your water comes from one municipal well located behind the small brick building located at 9876 Wellhouse Drive off Pickeral Street. The well was drilled in 1979 to a depth of over 600 feet and the pump is submerged to a depth of over 400 feet. After the water comes out of the well, it is chlorinated before storage to a level of approximately 0.4-0.6 mg/L to protect you against microbial contaminants.

The West White Plains Water Company Inc. (of which you are part owner) meets annually in June. Notification of the meeting will be distributed at least 2 weeks before the meeting. We hope you will be able to attend the next meeting as important decisions about the water system are made at this time.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

For many years we have been collecting water samples for lead and copper analysis on a 3-year schedule, but only from 5 of the 15 homes we provide water to. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The West White Plains Water Company is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.

- ☐ *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- ☐ *Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- ☐ *Radioactive contaminants*, which are naturally occurring.
- ☐ *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

In addition to the samples that we collect for analysis, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) also collects samples for analysis of Synthetic and Volatile Organics (SOCs and VOCs), gross alpha, and radium-228. If you are interested in the results of any of these analyses, please contact George Abbe.

Please remember that we have a small water system that supplies the needs of 15 families. Overuse of water by just a few households can put all of us at risk of being without water for an extended period as has happened in the past.

Terms & Abbreviations Used Below:

- X **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal** (MCLG): the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- X **Maximum Contaminant Level** (MCL): the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- X **Action Level** (AL): the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- X **n/a**: not applicable • **ND**: not detectable at testing limit • **ppb**: parts per billion or micrograms per liter • **ppm**: parts per million or milligrams per liter • **pCi/l**: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

Inorganic Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	West White Plains Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Nitrate as nitrogen (mg/L)	10	10	<0.05	09/24/08	No	Runoff from fertilizer use
Fluoride (mg/L)	4	4	0.19	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (mg/L)	0.010	0.010	<0.002	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Antimony (mg/L)	0.006	0.006	<0.001	09/24/08	No	Oil refineries; fire retardants
Barium (mg/L)	2	2	0.06	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Beryllium (mg/L)	0.004	0.004	<0.003	09/24/08	No	Discharge from coal burning
Cadmium (mg/L)	0.005	0.005	<0.001	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	<0.002	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Mercury (mg/L)	0.002	0.002	<0.0001	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits, runoff from landfills and cropland
Nickel (mg/L)	0.1	0.1	,0.001	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (mg/L)	0.05	0.05	<0.002	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (mg/L)	---	---	57	09/24/08	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Thallium (mg/L)	0.002.	0.0005	<0.0004	09/24/08	No	Leaching from ore processing

Lead-Copper	MCL	MCLG	West White Plains Water	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (mg/L)	0.015	0.0	0.00	09/26/08	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	1.3	0.33	09/26/08	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; natural deposits

About Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations? The state and the EPA require us to test our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. During 2008 we collected many samples as you have read about. In 2009 we will only collect just one sample for nitrate and 12 monthly samples for bacteria.